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NEWS

House lawmakers introduce Innovative FEED Act for novel feed additives

House lawmakers announced on Dec. 7 the introduction of bipartisan legislation to support novel feed additives. Reps. Greg Pence, R-Ind.; Jim Baird, R-Ind.; Kim Schrier, D-Wash; and Angie Craig, D-Minn., and eight other co-sponsors said the [Innovative Feed Enhancement and Economic Development \(FEED\) Act](#) would de-regulate animal feed additives by:

- Creating a new category of animal feeds called “zootechnical animal food substances” and defining them as substances that only act within the GI tract of the animal to lower food pathogens, reduce byproducts for animals, or affect its gut microbiome.
- Making it clear that zootechnical animal food substances would be regulated within FDA’s existing Food Additive Petition process for market approval, saving innovators time and money.
- Providing farmers with more voluntary tools to help nourish their animals and support farmers’ profitability.
- Leveling the playing field for American farmers and innovators.

The bill is introduced as companion legislation to the Innovative FEED Act (S. 1842) introduced in the Senate earlier this year and included in the reauthorization of the Animal Drug User Fee Act (ADUFA) passed by the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

“This bipartisan legislation is needed to modernize the broken regulatory system that has kept innovative feed ingredients,

already safely used in dozens of other countries, from being available to American farmers and ranchers,” said David Fairfield, NGFA’s vice president of feed. “This legislation aims to modernize the regulatory process for zootechnical feed ingredients, which have novel benefits, such as improving feed efficiency and reducing human foodborne illness.”

The Innovative FEED Act would establish a new category of animal food additives to cover ingredients that provide animal health, food safety or production benefits. Today, these ingredients must go through the same approval process as animal health drugs. This can result in an approval timeline of up to 10 years to bring new ingredients to the market. The Innovative FEED Act establishes that zootechnical animal food substances would gain approval for use through the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) premarket animal food additive petition process.

Urge lawmakers to support the Innovative FEED Act at ngfa.org/advocacy.

Biden administration announces food waste strategy

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on Dec. 2 announced a national strategy intended to drive progress toward the national goal to reduce food loss and waste in the U.S. by 50 percent by 2030.

The announcement was made at COP28, the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference, and advances U.S. goals to enhance agriculture’s ability to address global food security, manage the consequences of climate change, and engage in innovative practices.

According to USDA and EPA statistics, one-third of all available food in the U.S. goes uneaten, 24 percent of municipal solid waste is food waste, and 58 percent of methane emissions released to the atmosphere from municipal solid waste landfills is from food waste.

The Draft [*National Strategy for Reducing Food Loss and Waste and Recycling Organics*](#) identifies opportunities to reduce food loss and waste across the entire supply chain, and features four objectives:

- Prevent the loss of food where possible.
- Prevent the waste of food where possible.
- Increase the recycling rate for all organic waste.
- Support policies that incentivize and encourage food loss and waste prevention and organics recycling.

For each objective, the draft strategy highlights actions that the FDA, USDA or EPA could take. Examples of specific actions include:

- FDA and USDA contributing date labeling and food safety advice to inform EPA’s national consumer education campaign.
- USDA providing \$30 million in the Composting and Food Waste Reduction (CFWR) Cooperative Agreements.
- EPA supporting the development of additional organics recycling infrastructure through grants and other assistance for all communities, and taking steps to expand the market for products made from recycled organic waste.

- USDA expanding partnerships with National Institute of Food and Agriculture food system programs to further develop educational materials, research and outreach for food loss and waste prevention.
- FDA continuing to encourage uniform adoption of food donation practices updated in the [Food Code](#), which provide consistency and uniformity for public health officials.

A 30-day comment period has been provided for the draft strategy that ends Jan. 4. Comments may be submitted through [Regulations.gov](#), Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OLEM-2022-0415.

FDA releases report on antimicrobials sold or distributed in 2022

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Center for Veterinary Medicine on Dec. 7 published the [2022 Summary Report on Antimicrobials Sold or Distributed for Use in Food-Producing Animals](#).

The 2022 data show that domestic sales and distribution of medically important antimicrobial drugs approved for use in food-producing animals increased by four percent between 2021 and 2022. But as compared to 2015 (peak year of sales), 2022 sales were down 36 percent. FDA states that sales volume may fluctuate over time in response to various factors, including changing animal health needs or changes in animal populations.

The data is published in a new dashboard reporting format that allows users to interact with the data and create data visualizations using criteria such as antimicrobial drug class, species, and year. The annual sales data are also available in an Excel spreadsheet.

FDA has also updated its [Interactive Summary of Biomass-Adjusted Antimicrobial Sales Data](#) to include the 2022 biomass-adjusted sales data. A biomass denominator adjusts annual antimicrobial sales data to account for the size of the population of a given livestock species in the U.S. potentially being treated with those drugs.

Additional information that should be considered when reviewing the data can be found in FDA's [Questions and Answers: Summary Report on Antimicrobials Sold or Distributed for Use in Food-Producing Animals](#).

GAO urges crop insurance reform

A Government Accountability Office (GAO) report published on Dec. 5 urged Congress to change the crop insurance program by reducing the rate of return that companies can receive and imposing a means test on premium subsidies.

Crop insurance groups said the recommendations would destroy the program. In a joint statement, the American Association of Crop Insurers, Crop Insurance and Reinsurance Bureau and National Crop Insurance Services said the report "is fraught with recommendations that would dismantle the successful public-private partnership that delivers federal crop insurance to America's hard-working farmers and ranchers."

In the report, authors said the GAO "still believes that Congress should consider repealing the 2014 farm bill provision that any revision to the agreement with insurance companies not reduce their expected underwriting gains and consider reducing premium subsidies for the highest-income participants."

Meanwhile, House Agriculture Committee Chairman Glenn "GT" Thompson, R-Penn., issued a statement saying the report "isn't worth the paper it is printed on" due to "inconsistent performance

metrics” comparing crop insurance returns to other lines of insurance. “Further, they completely ignore the benefits of Federal crop insurance, which is one of the most successful examples of a public-private partnership in existence,” he said.

Finally, Thompson noted that government delivery is the alternative to the public-private partnership. “I don’t know of a single producer that would want to make that trade,” he said.

NGFA, along with U.S. producers, agribusinesses and farm-state lawmakers, recognizes crop insurance as a linchpin of the farm safety net and as crucial to the economic and food and fiber security of urban and rural America. NGFA will continue to urge Congress to protect crop insurance from harmful cuts.

Agribusinesses plan AI investments according to AgTech survey

Agribusinesses signaled a strong need and desire for digital technology advancements that include AI and automation to support more precise, data-driven decisions, according to research findings published in the AgTech Trends 2023 survey released this week.

“The majority of agribusinesses are facing on-farm and off-farm challenges resulting from inaccurate yield predictions and inconsistencies due to complexities in data collection and analysis,” the report concluded. “Agribusinesses are hopeful that the convergence of their various data sources into a unified platform and the adoption of modern technologies like AI will not just simplify data interpretation but revolutionize agriculture itself.”

The survey includes feedback from 807 U.S.-based agribusiness workers, including executive decision-makers, on-farm managers, agronomists, data scientists, IT specialists and go-to-market professionals.

Some notable findings include:

- Nine out of ten respondents view artificial intelligence (AI) and data analytics as crucial, transformative forces for their future, anticipating substantial changes in agriculture jobs over the next five years.
- An overwhelming 92 percent of respondents find it hard to improve on-farm activities using the current data at their disposal.
- In the upcoming year, 60 percent of agribusinesses are planning to increase their AgTech budget. Their main purchasing priorities are precision agriculture tools (66 percent), farm management software (60 percent) and data consolidation (45 percent).
- A significant 96 percent of respondents expressed the need for a consolidated platform to access essential data and apps for their operations from diverse vendors.
- Unpredictable weather is identified as a primary stressor for 76 percent of agribusinesses; 90 percent of agribusinesses acknowledge that climate change is affecting their crop yields, with 36.7 percent observing it makes yields highly unpredictable.
- Nearly 80 percent of businesses are at the “data exploration” stage or beyond, but only 21.3 percent have fully automated their data collection processes. An overwhelming 73.5 percent of

businesses are dedicating 11 or more hours weekly just for data collection, consolidation and analysis. Over a quarter (26.4 percent) are spending more than 16 hours per week.

- Nearly 60.5 percent of respondents cited labor shortages.

More details and complete copies of the *AgTech Trends 2023* report are available [here](#).

EVENTS

Take the Survey: CEC attracts 500+ industry members to Louisville

More than 530 industry members gathered at the Omni Louisville Hotel for NGFA's 52nd annual [Country Elevator Conference and Trade Show](#) this week.

NGFA Country Elevator Committee Chairman Paul Katovich, CEO of HighLine Grain Growers, welcomed grain merchants, elevator operators, feed manufacturers, processors, and grain industry suppliers to Louisville, Ky., on Dec. 3-5.

View the full [CEC photo album here](#) and more photos on pages 7-10.

Presentations from speakers will be delivered separately to attendees' inboxes.

Take the Survey!

- If you attended CEC, please take the brief [attendee survey](#). This information helps NGFA deliver the best possible experience for members at the next CEC.
- If you exhibited at the CEC Trade Show, please take the [exhibitor survey](#) so NGFA can continue to improve the exhibitor experience.



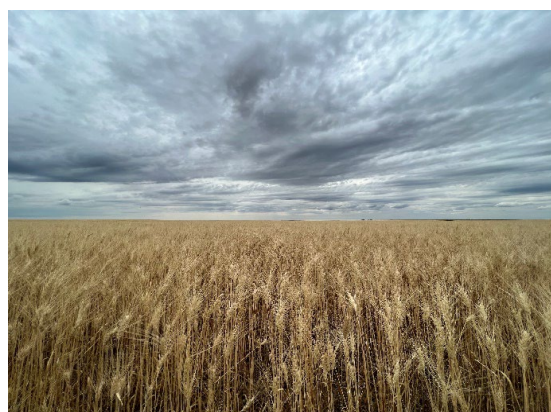
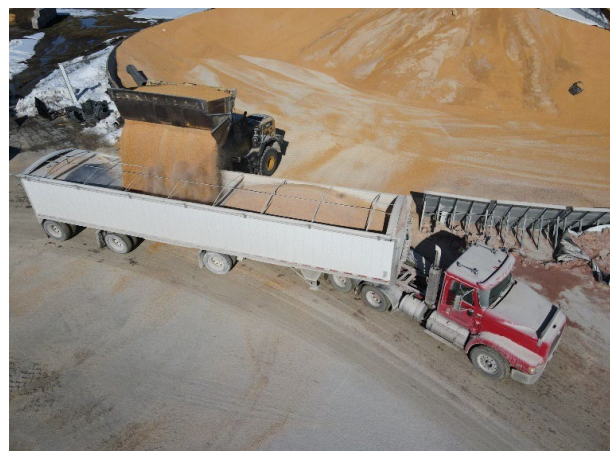
NGFA announces photo contest winners

NGFA Country Elevator Committee Chairman Paul Katovich, CEO of HighLine Grain Growers, announced the winners of the 2023 Grain and Feed Photo Contest during the closing general session of CEC on Dec. 5.

NGFA is grateful to all members who participated in the contest. Each photo entry helps NGFA showcase the grain, feed, and processing industry. Congratulations to the winners!

View the photos on page 5 or in the [online album](#).

- First place and the winner of \$500 is **Josiah Ness, Grain Craft** (*top left*)
- Second place and the winner of \$300 is **Karen Warner, Michigan Agricultural Commodities** (*top right*)
- Third place and the winner of \$200 is **David Baker, CGB Enterprises, Inc.** (*bottom left*)
- The honorable mention goes to **McKenzie Johnson, Columbia Grain** (*bottom right*)



SUPPLEMENTS

Give Back, Pay It Forward

At the [National Grain and Feed Foundation](#), understanding agribusinesses is our business! Your support helps NGFF respond to the changing needs affecting our industry, serve as a catalyst for productivity and collaboration, and support public education and research projects that benefit grain-based food systems. All administrative costs and management of the Foundation are provided by NGFA—which means **100 percent of your contribution goes directly toward NGFF’s education, safety, and research initiatives.**

Your support elevates what matters so together we can ensure the viability of the agricultural industry for generations to come.

Support NGFF with a year-end gift today! [Click Here To Donate](#)

Extra Supplements

NGFA in the news:

RFD-TV: [Well Below Average: How Mississippi River water levels are impacting corn movement](#)

Other news:

Reuters: [Smithfield Foods ends contracts with 26 US pig farms, citing oversupply](#)

Hagstrom Report: [GAO cites high cost of crop insurance, urges changes](#)

Financial Times: [US regulator floats guidelines for unruly emissions offset market](#)

Agri-Pulse: [World needs more farmland, Basse says](#)

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Photos continue on page 8. View the full [CEC photo album here](#).



Dan Basse, AgResource Company President - 2024 Ag Economy Outlook



Sara Wyant, Agri-Pulse Communications President - Agricultural Policy and Trade Update



Ken Eriksen, Polaris Analytics and Consulting Managing Director - New and Notable Issues for Ag Transportation



Mark Brusberg, USDA Chief Meteorologist -El Nino and Beyond



Jake Joraanstad, Bushel CEO - Generative AI and Real Talk on How it Could Impact Agriculture



Danny Lee "Nitro" Clark, author, speaker, American Gladiator - The Power of Resilience